

{July 21, 2007} — Trainer, PA — On Saturday afternoon Congressman Joe Sestak (D-PA) attended a farewell party for Ms Carolyn Haschak at the Bowley-Fatzinick VFW Post 5546 in Trainer. The future Leatherneck will leave for Parris Island in mid-August.

““I am who I am because of my father. I joined the Navy and proudly served my country for 31 years because of his example.” said Congressman Sestak. “He inspired me to serve my country.”

Ms. Haschak has been similarly inspired by her father, Post Commander Frank Haschak. Commander Haschak served with distinction in the United States Air Force and worked at the Navy Yard for 20 years. “The Marines are very fortunate to count Carolyn Haschak among their ranks” remarked the Congressman. She is smart (a Presidential Honor Student), fit (a cheerleader since she was four) and a natural leader -- her younger brother, Justin, plans to follow in her footsteps and enlist when he is eligible”. Congressman Sestak was especially impressed that despite the tragedy of losing her brother, Derrick, in a car accident, Carolyn has the strength and courage to serve her country.

Congressman Sestak has fought for the men and women who have served and who are currently serving in our armed forces. He successfully passed two amendments to the Wounded Warrior Assistance Act, which will improve mental health care for our wounded soldiers. The first amendment highlights the fact that mental health care is an essential component to the medical services offered to our Veterans and the members of our Armed Services by clarifying that ‘medical care’ as defined in this bill includes mental health care services.

The second amendment requires the Secretary of the Department of Defense to develop a plan to help prevent Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and other stress-related psychopathologies (including substance abuse conditions) from developing in our military service members. In addition, it requires the Secretary to submit to Congress within 180 days a plan for establishing a Peer-Reviewed research program within the Defense Health Program’s research and development function to research the prevention of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and how to best strengthen the psychological resiliency of our military service members. Both amendments passed with unanimous support.

As a veteran himself, Congressman Sestak feels strongly about working for the safety of our

troops and to provide veterans with the care they deserve. He has worked tirelessly to make ensure our nation keeps its promise to the men and women who kept theirs. Immediately after his election to the House of Representatives, Congressman Sestak met with the Library of Congress about the Veterans History Project. Created in 2000 by the United States Congress, the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress seeks to collect and archive the personal recollections of U.S. wartime veterans to honor their service and share their stories with current and future generations. The Project also collects stories from home front civilians who worked in support of our armed forces.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.*

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